



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission

April 10, 2012

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome – Henry Heuser, Jr.

Henry Heuser, Jr., Commission Co-chair, introduced himself and welcomed Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, "Commission") members and guests. Each Commission member and the other attendees introduced themselves and spoke briefly on their interest in the Commission's activities. Co-chair Schneider noted the Commission representative from the 10th State Senate District had resigned and that efforts were underway to fill that seat. Any suggestions for a replacement would be appreciated.

Minutes from the March 27, 2012 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. Introduction of Speaker – Katy Schneider

Co-Chair Schneider introduced Evan Conder to the group. Mr. Conder is a Masters of Urban Planning candidate at the University of Louisville and was the project lead for the group of students that produced the Urban Tree Canopy Plan as part of a Land Use and Environmental Planning Law course taught by Professor Tony Arnold.

III. Presentation of the Urban Tree Canopy Plan – Evan Conder

Mr. Conder began with a brief history of the genesis of the project and its focus on urban trees. (Plan available online at <http://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/projects/greencity/UrbanTreeCanopyPlan.pdf>.) The reports states that the urban tree canopy percentage for Louisville is 27%, compared to 40% on average in urban areas of the southeastern region. While presenting facts from throughout the report, Mr. Conder focused on the methodology used for the project, how that could be applied by the Commission in its work and in pursuant studies, and what resource limitations they faced as students that should be addressed when this work is undertaken at the municipal government level. Mr. Conder stressed that the most important take away for this group is not the specific findings in the report, rather what kind and level of information it is possible to develop using these methods and tools.

IV. Open Discussion and Questions

The group discussed how the project that Mr. Conder presented could be applied to the Commission's work. Next steps discussed focused on work at the committee level and on acquiring the more detailed and robust data sources that were a limitation in the student's project. This includes a more recent LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) data for GIS application, neighborhood

level tree surveys, and web and smart phone applications that will help individuals contribute specific data to a city tree inventory. In response to a question about what city would be a good choice to examine for guidance when creating a tree canopy plan, Mr. Conder pointed to Nashville. Other cities have also employed consulting firms to gather and develop data used to create a plan. More information on this topic will be sought by the Inventory Committee.

V. Committee Reports

The fundraising committee reported that \$40,000 has been committed to tree planting projects by MSD.

The Education and Outreach Committee reported that its first meeting would be on April 19th.

The Policy Committee reported that it would be meeting in the next couple of weeks.

The Planting Committee reported that it had met the previous week at Whitehall. They discussed looking at comparable cities to gather cost information on tree planting and maintenance and metrics to indicate long-term success.

VI. Adjourn

Co-Chair Schneider announced that the next Commission meeting would take place May 22nd at 5:00 and would be held at Iroquois Park Amphitheatre.